

**WARNING
TO ALL
BACKSLIDERS**

**Hold the Truth in Unrighteousness
FOR**
Tearments the Lord and cleave to the Light
And be drawn out of Darkness

I It is now almost a discovery was you the manner of my
falling from the Truth, notwithstanding I had called at the
Lord's Table, and did receive the Sacrament to see what was laid up for
them that were in his presence, and did draw out with the

When the time of Tristesse on that the Lord's Peo-
ple were desired to Pray for the remaining part got up
to me, the which the Sanny Soul joynd with
showing me the danger that might happen if I were
to Murther, that they should or might be put into a Prison
all said, the young persons in much that I began to
care for my Wife and Children, and Family considering the weak-
ness of my Wife, she being altogether incapable of carrying
my Trade, it must of necessity fail, which I thought I should
you take notice, this was whilst the first thing was coming
which when that began first to come, I shed blood in that
did discover it not to be of God, my heart had been first
not joining to the evil, that caused the Lord's Presence to be

drawn: then did the Devil transform himself into an Angel of light, shewing me, that Friends did not do so well as the *Isaiah* did: for they took care of their Families: then the thoughts of this began to minister to me a false peace & comfort, that I became one that did weaken the weak, and to lay a stumbling-block in their way: so then, when I had done this, yet had I no peace, but was still condemned in my Conscience: thus, he transformed an Angel, and another way, glorifying to me, that I might be serviceable in my being forth of Prison, for I might go and serve the Body of Friends, which did for a little while satisfy; but yet the Lords Love was such, that he shewed me that was not enough: but that I should go to the Meetings, and bear my Testimony for God, who called the Light to shine, and had shined into my heart, which gave me to understand my duty towards God and man, and towards my Friends: and when I had thoughts of obeying the Will of the Lord, then would my Wives tears flow from her eyes, which drew me to be tender to her; and not standing in the Cross, I came more and more to lose my portion. Then the Devil drew me to reprimand my self with those that did also, and we began to damn our selves with untempered Morter, and so grew light and vain, and to come to speak our own words, and to think our own thoughts, and to do our own work, and so became rebellious Children unto him, who was our Father, whilst we obeyed the Light in our hearts, which shewed our duty towards God; but were refusing to obey, the Truth, my came amongst us, and sowed his seed; and so here was a war- ing in us, for victory inasmuch, that our hearts had no peace. But continually filled with trouble, the very time when I was in, and in fearing, the Light in my heart did condemn me, and as my long down, for as my rising up I was so condemned; that I had some breathings towards the Lord, for to desire forgiveness, and was ready to cry unto the Lord, Father, my Father, but before the word [Father] was uttered, the Lords Witness would arise in my heart, and then me that I was not to call God Father, for I had done the will of the Devil, which caused me to remember what was said of some that was calling God Father, and was doing the works of the Devil, and I was one of the redeemed here, in well as they: but as for my dealing amongst men, I have very little to charge my self with, but can truly say, as to that point, I kept my self very much

much unpolluted of the World and thus made me it clear for the
 fame of the Truth, and could not endure near the Truth evil
 opinion of, although in a good measure departed from it.
 bib So by my plaidetling among men I was esteemed with many up
 and down the Country, my name was famous; inasmuch, that my
 Trade did much increase, so that I came to be very much admired
 in the World, which did choke the Seed more and more, and so
 I became idle and was far from the god of the World blinded the
 mind; what when I would have done the will of God, something or
 other lay in the way which did hinder, so Death and Darkness came
 to reign and to rule, and have the preeminence; inasmuch, that
 the light which did shine once in me, I came to be darkness, so
 that then when Prince-Demon to reign over the Seed, and kept it
 in bondage, which would have reigned over the Devil, had been
 obeyed, but quoth he have been, for I could, and did witness it to
 once, but by disobedience I became a Captive to the Devil, to do
 his will in a good measure. But yet, had there not been a Seed,
 I might have been as a man or made like unto him, and
 would have been kept out of the practice of many things,
 which and some things was almost or altogether concluded in my
 mind to do: therefore who is like unto the God of *Abraham*, and
 the God of *Isaac*, and the God of *Jacob*, who left us a Seed, or
 the Seed, had become of me in this apostatizing state.
 10 Wherein I was fully convinced of the Truth and Living Way, then
 accounted half-brother and being in comparison of Christ, the
 Way, the Truth, and the Life, inasmuch, that the Lord was plea-
 sed to manifest himself unto me in his Way, which was by Christ
 the light that lighteth every one that cometh into the World, so
 that came to this light of *Jesus*, I come to see that I had done amiss
 in giving heed unto the Parish Priest, who, I thought, I could not
 know, I had become heaver of those people, *Quakers*, before I
 came to hear Truth declared by the Servant of the Lord *Edward*
Brough; at which time when I went to hear him, I went not to
 hear of the despised people, called *Quakers*, to receive their
 Doctrine, but rather to gaze at them to see their manner, when
 I thus came in to that went with me seemed to be very much
 satisfied with what we there heard, I lay down, for which came he
 spoke unto me, my answer was to him, I had heard nothing but what

was truth, at which time I went away when the Meeting was parted (or the Friends one from another) with joy, which I know not how to express; but coming to a Relations house, I declared to the Woman that I had heard the Truth declared, and that I did never know the way to which I could witness satisfaction, but in this Way; which was, that there was the Light of Christ in the Conscience, which did discover to man his thoughts; (with many words more used) inasmuch, (in the time that I was speaking) she was in the mind to hear them, but after I was gone, her own wisdom got up, and so could not become a Fool that she might be wise: So after a little time, as I came to depart from committing of some sins I became a prey; he that was like to begin with me first was the Effect of the Priest, whose name was *Thomas*, a Presbyterian counted; his threats caused some fear to arise in my wife, who did make it known to her Sister, on which they considered a way how to keep me from suffering, which was, they would pay the Priest, and my Wife should pay them again; which thing did continue obscure for a time hid from me; but my Brother-in-law buying some Goods of me, did (when I came to reckon with him) stop some of my money, which it is like I might dislike; but at last it became customary to me to do so for a time; but in the performance hereof I found my strength decay, more lighter and vain I grew; and at last upon some difference he refused to pay the Priest any longer; inasmuch, the Priest's wife (who gathered money for the Priest) came unto me, and did acquaint me what this person had said, which was, that he would not pay the Priest for me; when that this came before me, in haste, (being led captive at the Enemies will) he quickly transformed himself into an Angel of light, and did signify to me that it was but under-hand dealing; and that I might more lawfuller do it with my own hand; also the Devil, to cause me to perform this work, shewed me the actions of some (that were otherwise Friends) in that business, and in other things also, the which ought not to have been minded; for he that leadeth out the mind is the Enemy, the same that shewed me, that it did appear the more lawfull in doing it with my own hand; but as Friends are kept to the true Light, even the Light of Jesus, they will come to see, and to divide between Spirit and Spirit, that is to say, between the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of Antichrist.

Antichrist; as they continue faithfull to the measure of Light they
 have received; but if they any grow weary of well doing, and so
 become slothfull and sluggish, then comes the Enemy and sow-
 eth Tares; which if I had continued in diligence to have made my
 calling and election sure, then had I answered the will of the Lord;
 for the end of Gods Love in giving his Son a Light into the World;
 was, *that all men through him might be saved*: Therefore I warn all
 to follow the Light, *that ye may become children of the Light*.
 Yet more I am to acquaint ye with, as touching the former,
 how the Lord did appear unto me at last after I had resisted his
 Will for years past; yet the Lord who is full of compassion, whose
 mercy endureth, whose Love is never to be forgotten by me; if
 ever forgetfulness should enter again, I must never look God in the
 face more; who hath helped me when I saw no helper in the Earth;
 then did the Lord appear in two of his Stewards whom he had com-
 mitted this charge unto, for to speak unto me, and to lay this be-
 fore me, that I did not do the thing that was right in paying the
 Priest: which signifying unto me, that I did it through fear of him,
 the which the witness for God in my Conscience did bear him re-
 cord, that what he said was true; also he signified to me the rea-
 son why he said I was afraid, which was true; for I was afraid,
 otherwise I had never paid him, but meely for fear of man whose
 breath is in his Nostrils: Also my Friend did lay before me, that
 the Priest was one of those that the Prophet of the Lord cried out
 against, that would prepare war against those that put not in their
 mouthes; the Witness of God in me did bear him record, that
 what he said was true; but the Enemy began to rage in me, and
 (to stand in defiance of the Friends words) he did advise me, putting
 me on, and bidding me to charge him to mind his Trade, and let
 me alone, for he was worse then he should be as well as I; the
 Friend would have known what I had to charge him with, but
 away I shuffled; but Gods Witness I could not shake from, but it did
 condemn me that night, and in the morning the Devil did
 strive to keep the Seed in bondage; but the day following, or
 soon after came another Friend to me in some business, and whilst I
 was talking with him, the Lord who is the Author of all good, from
 whence it doth spring, caused him to open his mouth unto me charg-
 ing me concerning paying the Priest Tythes, & said he was lately at a
 Meeting

Meeting with some Friends, and there he heard them relate things
 against me that did grieve his heart, (laying his hand on his breast)
 which did convince me; but still the Roaring Lion was ready to set
 his paw, signifying to me, what I should charge him, and counsel him
 wheslier he was not faulty in the same things; he replied, he never
 did pay the Principal penny, notwithstanding the Priest or I think
 would have received the value of a Pen of Silver what thou (saidst)
 hast not thou done; as some others have done, given the Golden
 Bribe to be thy Friend & thus the Enemy did still endeavour to keep
 me by his running, but the Witness of God in my Conscience he
 reached, I could not have any peace, but still was distressed all that
 night, whilst I was awake; in the morning I was also troubled; in
 so much, that I spoke to my wife, whose love is great towards me,
 though not of civility to determine of many things; the Enemy
 caused me to fear a new way, laying before me, and her also,
 that because she never had contended for the Truth, therefore she
 might pay the Priest when they came to demand it; this was
 concluded it should thus be, and this did minister a false peace,
 which lasted but a little while; soon hastening to the Meeting he di-
 vided himself; as I was going the Witness of God did awaken me,
 and shewed me, that I had made a bad morning's work, in making
 such a conclusion to pay money to him, when I knew it to be contra-
 ry to Truth; and therefore ought not to have been done; I told
 much that I was slain so that plainly with myself, the Lord in his
 Love did appear unto me in his power and might, and shewed me
 that he was not to be mocked; for such as sow, such must reap;
 therefore I found I should not flatter myself any longer, but deal
 plainly with my own Soul, that I might not be cheated of the In-
 heritance that is layed up for all those that love Gods appearance;
 Then was my heart broken, tears falling from my eyes, and then
 felt the power of Gods strength in me, which did begin to work out
 the evil thing that was concluded should be carried on in the Ser-
 pent's skin; there did the Lord work in me just like unto a man
 that removing his filthy goods, though he had been so filthy
 he to his Light, and had cast his counsel behind my back, although
 he gave me precept upon precept, and line upon line: Oh what a
 God have I, a God full of mercy whose mercy endureth for ever.
 When the Meeting was over I came home, and sat at dinner
 with

with the rest of my Family, I could scarcely forbear weeping, and
fell to mourning again, bearing my testimony against my self, for
being negligent in the work of the Lord, who did encourage them
to go to our Meeting, and also spoke unto my Wife to go, who
soon did submit to my desire, and did go with me, whilst I was in
the Meeting I was very much broken, tears would have flowed
from my eyes, but being among those that knew me, I fled the
cross in that, and did strive very much to forbear, and did all
the time of the meeting walk much ado, which did hinder the
Lords work which he had begun afresh in me, but when I came
to signify to my wife that I was to go forth, (along with
the Lords people) the earnest was in caused me to be ashamed
and confounded in my self, considering once the hopefull con-
dition that she was in, which was, she had imparted with her
King, and plucked of Darts, and layed by many things: this come
to be layed before me, and the Witness for the Lord in me shewed
me these things had not been, had I kept faithfull to the Lord: So
that this did so work upon me, that though I had refused the Will
of God in the Meeting, yet when I was coming out of it I could
not hold any longer, but broke forth into tears, to the view of some,
although I would have hid it, I could not, but did cry louder
then ordinary, and so I continued shedding of tears as I went
along the street, and did strive to hide them from my wife, but
could hardly do it, who is like unto our God, which plucked me
as a Brand out of the Fire, what can I do whereby I may requite
his Love? shall not I be given up in his will to bear my testimony
amongst his people, if it be required of me? yes verily, and shall
I sacrifice my self and all that I have unto the Lord for his Love,
which is never to be forgotten: oh, praises and glory be unto
him for ever, and for evermore, who hath called me out of Dark-
ness into his marvellous Light, who did appear unto me in the night
of Darkness, and caused his Light to shine, in which the power is
witnessed, in which the victory is obtained: oh, praises be unto
thee my God, who art God of Gods, and Lord of Lords, who by
thy Light, Life and Power did reach unto me in a needfull day,
and in a time of trouble, what shall I render unto thee, thank-
giving and obedience for ever: for thou needest not any outward
thing

thing that I have; therefore how shall I answer the lovingkind-
 ness? Lord, thou knowest the secrets of all hearts; thou knowest
 my simplicity, thou knowest the very end of my writing it in
 love to all that have backslidden, to encourage them to return un-
 to my Father: all that have been Prodigals as well as I, return;
 can assure you, in my Fathers House there is Bread enough, and
 to spare: I warn all to return to the Father, who willeth not the
 death of any, but that all might live; therefore be encouraged
 whilst it is day, for otherwise the night will overtake you, when
 it will be too late; therefore, *whilst it is day hear his voice, and*
do not harden your hearts towards to the Lord; why will ye die? I be-
seech you, return, put not the day afar off; who knoweth how
short our time may be here in this World? Seek the Lord while
he may be found, call upon him whilst he is near; for he hath thow-
ed us his Servants, that he will not always strive with man, whom
he hath given precept upon precept, and line upon line, here a little,
and there a little. Friends all, consider your latter end, and the
 length of time that is after we come to lay down the body into the
 dust: also consider, that whilst ye do abide here, you have no
 peace here, but a false peace, *For there is no peace to the wicked saith*
my God: But, ye Backsliders, I direct my words unto you whom the
 Lord committed of his hidden Treasures, whom the World knoweth
 not: I say, I direct my words chiefly unto you, that you might come
 to answer the Will of the Lord, that so you may come to have an
 Inheritance among them that are sanctified; you are often in my
 thoughts, a pity doth arise in my heart towards you: I beseech you
 return to the Light, and walk in the Light, that ye may come to
 enjoy fellowship with the children of God: oh, the height, the
 depth of the Love of God, my tongue cannot express what is in my
 heart towards you: return, I beseech you, come to a true search,
 do not heal nor cover your selves with false coverings any longer, but
 turn your minds inward, *to commune with your own hearts, and be still;*
 separate your selves from those external things, that you may come
 to inherit a portion of internal things; that ye may come to enjoy
 the Crown that is laid up for all those that fear him: but this is
 my testimony for the Truth of our God, that none shall come to
 enjoy the Crown, but as they come to take up the Cross, and chy

own will deny, and subject it to the Will of God; for that is the way to obtain a better inheritance than the Kings of the Earth enjoy, which hath not an inheritance that will never fail: Crowns immortal; Earthly Crowns will fall from the head, but this Heavenly Crown will never fall world without end: Oh Friends, do not sell your Crown for a mess of Pottage; do not sell the Lords Inheritance to Eternity, for an inheritance in the Earth which none knoweth how little while they may enjoy it: Oh, consider, I say again consider, the Lords Love is to you, the Lord hath opened his Treasures of Love unto you through me his Servant, who am given up in the Will of the Lord to serve him, and to follow the Lamb whithersoever he leadeth.

Oh, Lord God of Heaven and Earth, my Soul doth praise thee, thy Name is to be honoured by me, who hath done great things for me, who was as it were wallowing in my blood, then didst thou appear and shewed me, that I was as the Prodigal was, that had spent his portion upon Harlots in adulterating from the Lord; also shewed me that there was bread enough in thy House; thou Lord spoke unto me, to the informing of me, just as a man doth his friend, all but the sound of the tongue: Oh, what a Father have I, what a God have we that pardoneth sin and transgression in us, though we have rebelled and done despite to his Spirit of Grace, refusing it in its appearance, which would have taught us to have denied all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to have lived godly and righteously in this present world: Oh, Lord, thy Love is never to be forgotten; what shall separate thee from us O Lord? shall tribulation? shall persecution? nay, Lord, in thee is my strength, thou art my Captain, thou hast gathered me from off the barren Mountains, thou hast plucked me out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay, thou hast set my feet upon a Rock, thou hast established my goings, this can I say; Lord, thou knowest the Covenant that I have made with thee, it is in thy Wisdom I write, and in thy Strength of my self I cannot do it; but thou art my chief Captain, thou art my Strength, thou art my Fortress, therefore I give thee the glory, who is worthy of all thanks, all the praise for ever.

When thou camest unto me as I lay upon my bed, thou didst shew me that there was yet a door of Mercy open if I would return, did it not then arise in my heart, *Speak Lord, thy Servant heareth;*

glory be unto thee, who hath caused the Light of thy Will to
 break in me, who was in bondage to sin, and to the power of dark-
 ness, which is the Devil, who is the God of the World, and ru-
 leth in the children of disobedience; praises be unto thee whose
 presence is with me, who art my Strength, and doest put me
 upon this great work, which is of weighty concernment; for there
 be many Gazers at me, and us, who are wise in the comprehending
 part; they would be glad to have me to write my own words, but I
 am in the Will of my God, who is my Guide, who leadeth me in
 to all Truth; not to write any thing that is in my own will, but
 what I do is in the will of the Lord; insomuch, that the mouthes of
 some will be stopped, which otherwise would be apt to say I did it
 in my own will, to be seen of men; but the Lord knoweth my heart,
 I have no reservation at all in my mind, but that my God may be
 glorified, and my Soul comforted and strengthened, that I may
 never grow faint or weary, but still press forward toward the mark
 which is set before me, which is the end of Gods calling me out of
 darkness into his marvellous Light; and this doth arise in my
 heart, that whither soever these lines may come, which were
 written in the fear of the Lord, and in obedience unto his Name,
 that they be not read in a mind that is filled with prejudice, let all
 of that be removed, as it is out of me at the writing hereof; the
 Lords Love is raised in me, which doth cause me to write, to inform
 all, that there is yet a day of mercy held forth for all that will
 come out from among those that are resisting the Counsel of
 the Lord, yea, those that resisteth his Will, and are doing the will
 of the Devil. I bear my Testimony for the Lord, there is yet a day
 of mercy. If you will return unto him, he will return unto you, and he
 will heal your backslidings, and remember your sins no more: There-
 fore be encouraged, for I was as bad as some of you, yet the
 Lord hath appeared to me by his Light, which never consenteth to
 sin, this, as is heeded and obeyed, it will lead unto the Father; For
 none cometh unto the Father but by the Son, who is the Way, the Truth
 and the Life, nor doth any come unto the Son but whom the Father
 draweth; Scin love to all have: I took my pen in hand, who am
 of my self altogether insufficient; but God hath bath hid those things
 from the wise and prudent, and hath revealed them to Babes and
 Sucklings, that his Name may be glorified, and your Souls com-
 comforted

sorted for ever, praises be unto my God for ever and for ever, world without end, Amen saith my Soul. And by me this is written in the simplicity of my heart, without any self end, the Lord knoweth my heart; therefore let all be carefull of speaking evil of what they know not, lest in so doing they should offend: This being all I find of necessity to write at this time, I rest in the Love of my Father, who hath in measure begotten me again unto himself, and hath caused me to make a covenant with him, never to leave him, but to follow him through good report, and through evil report, knowing that I shall reap if I faint not; for it is they that endure to the end that shall be saved.

This in pure love to all who are yet resisting the Light in their Consciences, to warn them to return, whilst it is day, for it is to day if you will hear the Lords voice in you, harden not your hearts, as they did in the old World, who lived in pleasure, marrying, and giving in marriage till the Flood came and swept them away, all but Noah and eight persons, as the Scriptures of Truth doth declare. *Oh, Father, who art sufficient for these things, I could not do this without thy Presence, without thy Counsel, without thy assistance; Lord, take thou the glory, who art worthy of all, (and none besides thee) of all praises and thanksgiving now and for evermore, Amen.*

*The 2d day
of the 12th
Month, 68.*

Written in the true fear of the Lord, by
me his Servant,

Anthony Tompkins.

THE END.
